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**COMMONWEALTH OF
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**PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS ANNOUNCES
THE PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY *AMERICAN
MASTERPIECES* TOUR**

HARRISBURG – The Paul Taylor Dance Company and its six-member second company, Taylor 2, will present works by American master choreographer and Pennsylvania native Paul Taylor during a tour that will visit 18 locations this spring.

The tour, which runs from March 26 through June 7, will provide Pennsylvanians with the opportunity to see 27 different Taylor dances.

“The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts is delighted to make this once-in-a-lifetime dance experience available to dancegoers across the commonwealth,” said Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Executive Director Philip Horn. “A tour of this quality and breadth of content is very rare for any dance company in this day and age.”

In the upcoming weeks, the Paul Taylor Dance Company will perform in 11 Pennsylvania locations while Taylor 2 will appear in seven communities.

“We are proud to have proposed this tour as part of the national *American Masterpieces* initiative and especially proud that Pennsylvania communities will get to celebrate the remarkable genius of a native son,” Horn said.

Taylor was born in Greensburg, Westmoreland County, and grew up near Washington, DC. He was an art student at Syracuse University until he transferred to Julliard to study dance. Taylor formed his own dance company in 1954. He joined the Martha Graham Dance Company in 1955 while continuing to create dances with his own performance group.

Taylor retired as a performer in 1975, but he has continued to work as a choreographer. He has a collection of 127 dances performed by his own company and Taylor 2, as well as by other dance companies in the U.S. around the world.

President Clinton awarded Taylor the National Medal of Arts in 1993. In January 2000, he was presented with France's highest cultural award, the Légion d'Honneur.

The Paul Taylor Dance Company's statewide tour of Pennsylvania is supported through funding from the "American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Genius" national initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. The MetLife Foundation is the national tour sponsor of the Paul Taylor Dance Company and Taylor 2. Taylor 2 educational programs are underwritten by Time Warner Inc.

As part of the NEA national initiative, *American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius*, the Paul Taylor tour also features the work of Pennsylvania's presenting organizations, including colleges, universities and community performing arts centers.

For more information on the Paul Taylor Dance Company's statewide tour of Pennsylvania, visit http://www.ptdc.org/tour_tour.php.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are the dates and locations of the tour:

March 26 Foy Hall, Moravian College, Bethlehem
(Taylor 2)

March 27 Miller Theater, Reading Area Community College
(Taylor 2)

March 29 D'Angelo Center, Mercyhurst College, Erie
(Paul Taylor Dance Company)

March 29 Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell
(Taylor 2)

April 1 Pasquerilla Center, Johnstown
(Paul Taylor Dance Company)

April 3 Halbritter Center, Juniata College, Huntingdon
(Paul Taylor Dance Company)

April 5 Succop Theater, Butler County Community College, Butler
(Taylor 2)

April 5 Mitrani Hall, Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg
(Paul Taylor Dance Company)

April 8 Williams Center, Lafayette College, Easton
(Paul Taylor Dance Company)

April 8-10 Zink Hall, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana
(Taylor 2)

April 10 Schaeffer Auditorium, Kutztown University, Kutztown
(Paul Taylor Dance Company)

April 11-12 Rose Lehrman Center, Harrisburg Area Community College, Harrisburg,
(Paul Taylor Dance Company)

April 15 F.M. Kirby Center, Wilkes-Barre
(Paul Taylor Dance Company)

April 21 Burgin Center, Mercersburg Academy, Mercersburg
(Paul Taylor Dance Company)

April 22 Luhrs Center, Shippensburg University, Shippensburg
(Paul Taylor Dance Company)

April 23 Majestic Theater, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg

(Taylor 2)

April 24 Willow Street Cultural Center, Willow Valley Retirement Communities,
Willow Street (Lancaster County)
(Taylor 2) [Note: Not part of *Masterpieces* tour].

June 5-7 Annenberg Center, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia,
(Paul Taylor Dance Company)